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SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

EXPERIENCE SHARING WORKSHOP ON MANAGING NATURAL RESOURCE ENDOWMENT AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AFRICAN AGENDA 2063, 24-25 OCTOBER 2013

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EXPERIENCE SHARING WORKSHOP ON
MANAGING NATURAL RESOURCE ENDOWMENT
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Introduction

Africa is rich in natural resources, including: precious minerals, agricultural land, water, fisheries and forests. These natural assets could potentially transform Africa into the economic miracle of the 21st Century. Yet, Africa continues to suffer from incidences of extreme poverty, deepening inequality and underdevelopment. The full potential of its natural resource wealth remains largely untapped due to structural, governance and institutional challenges.

Some of the most notable constraints include the absence of an integrated planning and management framework; the lack of reliable geological data survey data and statistics; the adverse impact of an improperly managed natural resource sector boom on the rest of the economy; the lack of forward and backward linkages; the unequal sharing of the natural resource rents across the value chain; poor legal, fiscal and regulatory frameworks; weak institutional capacity. With exception of a few, most African States lack the capacity to negotiate beneficial and natural resource extraction agreements.

As a result, African governments and people forfeit financial benefits through transfer pricing, illicit transfers and other covert mechanisms. In some instances, the incapacity of the oversight and regulatory institutions within African countries essentially means that they cannot effectively enforce the best of agreements, policies and legal provisions to the advantage of African people.

Clearly, there is a need for a paradigm shift in how Africa perceives, manages and benefits from her natural resource assets. The adoption of the Africa Agenda 2063 by the African Union presents the means and golden opportunity to achieve this shift.

Background



As part of its 2013 policy dialogue and capacity development programmes, the Africa Governance Institute (AGI) in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and under the leadership of the African Union Commission, organized an experience sharing workshop on the theme “Managing natural resource endowment and the implementation of the Africa Agenda 2063”. This framework for socio-economic transformation of the continent is described in the draft AU discussion paper on Agenda 2063, which represents an overarching strategic vision for Africa over the next 50 years. The dialogue aimed at bringing a wide range of stakeholders to make recommendations to Agenda 2063 before its submission to the African Union Policy Organs during the next summit in January 2014.

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The purpose of Agenda 2063 is, amongst others, to achieve the socio-economic transformation of the continent for the benefit of its citizens in an environment of peace and security.

It is essential for Africa to break with the model of extractive resource exploitation based on a high dependency on international export markets. This model has failed to bring about socio-economic transformation to the continent. The “New Common Sense” implied in Agenda 2063 requires that the continent places greater focus on comprehensive developmental approaches which integrate social, economic and environmental policies. Such an approach seeks to integrate mining, land, fisheries, forest, water, strategic planning, evidence-based policy-making and statistics, State accountability, democratic governance and development policy. Agenda 2063 has emerged at a time when African leaders have, through the African Union, adopted comprehensive normative Frameworks on the use, management and governance of Land based natural resources as well as shared values governance instruments.

The AU also has a tried and tested framework in the APRM. The APRM could and should play a prominent role in improving the potential of natural resource for the socio-economic transformation of the continent and must be at the centre of all African institutional process for establishing a sound management of these resources.

As individual countries are less likely to be able to successfully operate this shift, regional integration is an essential pre-requisite for Africa to govern and optimize benefits from her natural resource assets. Enhancing regional integration will also help Africa’s institutions and governments to ensure policy coherence and coordination across sectors and among themselves. It catalyzes the process of getting Africa to speak with one voice in international fora dealing with issues of natural resources extraction, benefits and governance.

The results of continued bilateral or single-country engagement with multi-lateral institutions or multi-national corporations are potentially devastating. African policy space and options (including targeted empowerment of SME’s, local communities and women) could be adversely affected by the bilateral investment treaties that African countries are signing, in their search for foreign investment. These BITs could potentially undermine Africa’s nascent industrial policy, local enterprise development and possibilities for natural resource beneficiation. Evidence and historical experience with multilateral trade and investment regimes suggest that the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) that Africa is entering into with the EU might in the medium to long-term negatively affect future policy space needed for the realization of aspects of the AU Land Policy Framework and the Africa Mining Vision (AMV) and transboundary management of natural resources. Much thought will need to be invested into understanding how (positively and negatively), the planned Africa Continental Free Trade Area (CAFTA) might affect the Africa Mining Vision and a sound management of African natural resource endowment.

Yet, in reality, the African regional frameworks and institutions need to be owned, driven and internalized by African people, civil society and the private sector. Legal and policy environments for their full implementation must be one of the first key steps towards the paradigm shift referred to earlier. It is important that African institutions and governments remain focused and act in a coordinated manner around the Africans regionals frameworks (AMV, AULC, etc.).

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Africans have a moral, social, economic, and political responsibility to ensure that external support serves to supplement local (national and/or regional) efforts and do not become drivers of the implementation of the AMV and other African tools as has sadly been the case historically. This concerted effort is both a strategic choice and intellectual position not to assign the continent's strategic resources and development levers to foreign domination and control. In addition, not to develop on entirely borrowed knowledge, expertise, financing and institutions.

Notably the ideas on how to manage and harvest natural resource assets are severely contested terrain replete with many ideological presumptions and practical realities about meaning and life. Many of Africa's international cooperating partners and donors are vigorously marketing rival natural resources extraction and management frameworks sweetened with significant offers of aid and other illusory short term benefits. Nonetheless, even amongst the different donors and investors, there is a vicious competition for Africa's resources, no better dramatized than by the fact that almost all other regions of the world have medium to long-term plans on investing in or benefiting from Africa's natural resources.

There is need to strengthen the African individual and institutional capacities to overcome the intellectual dependence of African actors on extractive dimension of managing natural resource assets. The areas affected by this need of capacity development are numerous and include contract negotiation, statistics, monitoring and evaluation among others. The African Minerals Development Centre (AMDC) established in 2009 and the recent African Center of Natural Resources (ACNR) created by the AfDB should be oriented to serve the broader African aspiration for intellectual and financial independence and increased knowledge and policy space to innovate.

Africa's collective challenge going forward is how to get African governments, civil society, Diaspora and entrepreneurs to work together on the concrete implementation tasks that will give life to the grand ambitions of African socio-economic transformation by 2063 and the critical role of African natural resource assets in achieving inclusive and sustainable human development. This collective challenge and collective aspiration requires a progressive and transformational leadership and the adoption and implementation of transparent, accountable and developmental governance of African natural resources.

To allow the natural resource assets to be an accelerator of socio-economic transformation of Africa and contribute to the achievement of Agenda 2063, the draft working paper of the AUC needs to include the following recommendations:

On the Paradox of Natural Resource Wealth and Human Poverty in Africa:

1. Strengthen the capacity of the state to play a central role in promoting economic development and catalyzing structural transformation of policies. Africa needs to ensure that in all new contracts for the exploitation of its resources, countries are able to collect fair revenues, which should form part of the broad drive for mobilizing domestic resources for its development and industrialization. This requires long term planning and a vision for the future.

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2. Promote and most importantly, implement effective and appropriate integrated natural resource management legislation & fiscal policies linked to shared national strategies and development objectives. Africa's natural resource sector provides huge opportunities for sustainable development and poverty eradication, if properly managed with the right mix of macroeconomic and industrial policies, and legislative enforcement systems in place.
3. Advocate for inclusive growth and effective development governance achieved through transformation of a gender sensitive education sector, enhanced legislation and institutional structures, public participation and universal access to basic services to help catalyze the potential of natural resources as a creator of wealth, social and economic transformation and inclusive development.
4. Accentuate the transformation of domestic policies and governance in the extractive and other sectors in order to anchor these sectors in a broad development vision through better alignment of mineral, industrial and trade policies ; expand and clarify issues of land ownership, local participation and control in the mining and other sectors; catalyze the emergence of domestic and regional economic corridors across the continent; improve geological and geo-scientific knowledge and access to public information on natural resources; promote environmental, social and material stewardship.
5. Emphasize on leadership transparency and accountability advocated for by the Africa Mining Vision (AMV) and other African's existing accountability standards and mechanisms (particularly the APRM) to ensure that the extractive natural resource sector delivers equitable distribution of revenues and development dividends to Governments and local communities while rewarding investors for the risk they take and clearly defining how revenues are captured, managed and intended beneficiaries. This requires transparency of contracts, beneficial ownership, including the social and environmental obligations of extractive industry investors and stakeholders as well as strengthening the capacity of civil society to hold governments accountable for actions regarding management of natural resources. This entails re-establishing the concept of a working social contract between government and its citizens.
6. Stalwartly promote reinvestment of revenues from extractives towards universal access to essential local services such as water, energy, and into other sectors with significant potential for transformational impact, the eradication of poverty and for reducing inequality in Africa.
7. Underscore the importance of public investment, domestic resource mobilization and necessary technology inflows to create strategic public investment initiatives and feasible financial options for the sustainable and transparent management of Africa's natural resources. Africa needs to improve the value chain and maximize diversification of economies based on backward and forward linkages between the extractive sector and other sectors of local economies, generating investments from rent/capital to maximize natural resource wealth.

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8. Call for capacity building at the individual and institutional levels in the management of natural resources from a regional resource perspective rather than the prevailing national level capacity building and improve inter-state coordination in the implementation of bilateral environmental agreements, thereby maximizing opportunities for skills transfer and strengthening of capacity for contract negotiation.

On the Political and Socio-Economic Conditions for Sound Management of Natural Resource Endowment in Africa:

9. Stimulate a critical paradigm shift in the current approach to management of natural resources away from the perception of Africa as being “poor” as it impacts on the actions (marginalization of citizens, under valuation of natural resources and political manipulation of natural resources) to greater policy coherence, favorable political climate devoid of corrupt practices and conflict; progressive and accountable leadership, ownership of natural resources to translate into wealth for the citizenry. Africa therefore needs to move away from regimes of restraint from international agreements and define its own positive narrative on natural resource endowment.
10. Invest in increased knowledge of the continent’s geological endowment with a view to employing that knowledge as a key tool for strengthening the continent’s bargaining power with other international actors interested in Africa’s mineral wealth. Better knowledge of Africa’s mineral wealth will also allow Governments to experiment more effectively with innovative mechanisms of allocating exploration ground such as auctioning, and entering into better informed and more optimal “resources for infrastructure” deals. To this end, careful consideration should be given to the strategic importance of a stable funding mechanism that would support the geological mapping of the continent on an on-going basis.
11. Transform the informal sector economy through extending significant gender sensitive support to Artisanal and Small-scale Miners (ASM), small scale farmers and fisheries in recognition of the important role they play as legitimate actors in creating employment, rolling back household poverty, enhancing women’s and youth participation, generating backward and forward linkages and overcoming underdevelopment in rural communities. Also, Governments should strive to address the technical equipment, skills and financial challenges faced by ASM (and other small scale natural resource sectors such as fisheries) as an integral part of a development-oriented mining policy. This should be done in the knowledge that their full integration into rural development programmes, including their formalization as may be appropriate, could be a potent strategy for raising the living standards of communities, improving gender equity, encouraging youth participation, and promoting sustainable local economies.
12. Ensure and coordinate extractive resource based investments in the development of efficiently designed multi-purpose and multi-user infrastructure to supplement existing national infrastructure networks and contribute to job creation and diversification of the extractive sector, particularly the mineral sector.
13. Support the drive for a skills revolution to accelerate Africa’s transformation, in general, but in particular with regards to the management, beneficiation and utilization of mineral and energy

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resources. Ensure the development of and investment in universities, science, technology and research institutes dedicated to growing indigenous skills, knowledge, technologies and innovation in Africa's mineral and energy sectors.

14. Strategically prioritize the implementation of the 2063 Agenda with focus on sectors that would yield concrete and immediate transformational impact and at the same time drive the rest of the sectors of natural resources management for greater visibility of the Agenda.

On the Governance of Key Natural Resources:

On seeking to imbue natural resource activities in Africa, with a much greater developmental role, African countries should:

On Mineral Resource:

15. Undertake all-round domestic policy reforms in the mining and other sectors in line with the African Mining Vision to: anchor the minerals sector in a broad development vision; better align mineral, industrial and trade policies; institutionalize inter-departmental collaboration within the governmental system; expand local ownership, participation and control in the mining sector; significantly increase local content; boost mining revenue/taxation receipts whilst plugging financial leakages; enhance the contribution of mining activities to various backward and forward linkages in the local economy throughout the entire mineral value chain, and overcome the phenomenon of enclave economies; catalyze the emergence of domestic and regional economic corridors across the continent; improve geological and geo-scientific knowledge; promote environmental, social and material stewardship; and give attention to urban mining for the purpose of recycling extractable precious and base metals from e-waste.
16. Commit to entrenching democratic governance principles along the mineral value chain, including strengthening the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) with a view to strategically repositioning it to become the primary instrument for promoting a shared understanding of mineral value creation, eliminating mineral resource-driven conflicts, institutionalizing mandatory mineral revenue disclosure, and improving overall mineral sector governance in Africa.
17. Urgently invest in tackling the institutional and human capacity challenges faced by stakeholders along the mineral value chain, doing so by strengthening existing institutions and, as necessary, building new, specialist ones. This will make for the emergence of a well capacitated African minerals sector, anchored in a clear developmental vision, and able to negotiate beneficial contracts and contribute to innovation and development of knowledge based African minerals sector.
18. Commit to achieving sustainable mineral exploitation that addresses environmental challenges and the issue of externality of costs in the sector for the sake of inter- and intra-generational

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equity. To this end, African Governments should provide and enforce a strong environmental management framework for all actors in the mining sector in order to strengthen environmental accountability and begin to allocate costs differently to be part of the social cost of mining contracts.

19. Break with past experience by popularizing and assiduously implementing the Africa Mining Vision in order to achieve the much-needed paradigm shift in the African mining sector that has eluded much of the continent for decades. To this end, efforts and more investments should be made to popularize and better disseminate the Vision across Africa among a multiplicity of stakeholders who could partner with Governments to advance its goals towards full realization and replicate this vision to other sectors such as the energy, water, forestry and fisheries.

On land:

20. Commit to fast track the implementation of the African Union Declaration on Land Issues and Challenges in Africa in accordance with the Framework and Guidelines on Land Policy in Africa so as to realize the reform of land policies, laws, and administration systems at the national level, particularly in the fields of agriculture and agro processing with a view to increase investments in agriculture as a percentage of national GDP and the overall productivity in agriculture. In addition, enhance the role of agriculture in industrialization through growth of agro-processing sectors and recognize the importance of the agricultural sector to food, nutrition security and the elimination of rural poverty.
21. Strive to identify established local land rights, interests, claims and custodial ownership issues, and clearly determine how much land is available and where it is located before engaging in large-scale land allocations. The process should take into account, land that is under traditional systems of agriculture, including shifting cultivation, fallow farming and pastoral grazing. Mapping and documenting land rights, interests and claims of communities and individuals should go beyond ownership rights and include user rights to land and related resources.
22. Explore innovative and inclusive large-scale land-based investment (LSLBI) models that empower smallholder farmers and communities and offer provisions to protect national food security, thereby achieving equitable agricultural and rural transformation in Africa. To this end, LSLBIs should adhere to the principles of the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) which enjoin African Governments and stakeholders to reverse unhelpful and inconsistent macro and sectoral policies that are biased against agriculture in general, and smallholder farmers in particular.
23. Adopt appropriate policy and legislative frameworks that articulate modalities for access to land by both domestic and foreign investors and recognize the land rights of local communities and investors in order to facilitate and secure profitable and equitable LSLBIs. Optimal structuring of land deals requires evidence-based, transparent and consultative negotiations on the main

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elements. Some of the key elements that must be carefully considered are: optimal land size and land lease period; potential costs and benefits and how they are to be shared and distributed; terms for further allocations; basis and terms of compensation; protection of well-being of smallholder farmers, including the women among them; community participation and a sense of ownership; provisions for withholding production for domestic use to address food and energy security; fiscal and other provisions to minimize land speculation; and regulatory mechanisms for enforcement.

24. Strengthen property rights, especially those falling under customary jurisdictions that serve as the principal regime under which most of Africa's abundant land lies. In this regard, there is an urgent need to fast track implementation of the African Union (AU) Declaration on Land Issues and Challenges in Africa, in accordance with the Framework and Guidelines on Land Policy in Africa that aims to reform land policies, laws and administration systems, with a view to entrenching the land rights of local communities and facilitating the security of all bundles of land rights, interests and claims, especially for women and other vulnerable groups.
25. Ensure, in partnership with other stakeholders, that LSLBIs give due consideration to environmental sustainability and climate change concerns. In addition, make effectively enforced and properly monitored environmental stewardship a central component of contractual arrangements with land investors.
26. Strengthen institutions that govern land rights, along with those that facilitate investments and oversee the regulatory environment, to ensure that land deals attain their socio-economic (particularly in term of employment), gender, inter-generational, and environmental goals.
27. Mobilize financial and human resource capacity support for the implementation of the Nairobi Action Plan on LSLBIs in order to enhance the governance of LSLBIs in Africa. Resources are urgently needed to ensure that African Governments and stakeholders validate these principles to create the sense of ownership that is critical to implementation. Support is also needed for capacity development and monitoring for responsive LSLBIs; and
28. Engage the Land Policy Initiative (LPI) as a possible institutional resource for the implementation of the AU Declaration on Land and the Nairobi Action Plan on LSLBIs. This would mean that all the activities contained in the LPI strategic plan, including capacity building, would have to be adequately mainstreamed at the national, regional, and continental levels.

On water:

29. Recognize the strategic role of water in the socio-economic transformation of the continent in terms of access, sanitation, hygiene, energy, job creation.

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30. Reinforce the capacities of national and African institutions and/or Africans firms in the management of the water sector in African countries.
31. Establish an indicator of Governance within the framework of the APRM guidelines related to both to affordable access to water, safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene (calling for universal access to each by 2030).
32. Reflect Water, sanitation and hygiene targets wherever they are required for a given goal or objective to be successful.
33. Create regional mechanisms to monitor performance and ensure accountability in the water sector (including sanitation and hygiene) in cognizance of rapid urbanization and population growth of African cities. In this regard, recognize the urgent need for planning policies to ensure effective provision of bulk water and sanitation facilities for all.

On Fisheries:

34. Promote national strategies that focus on the many facets of policy and governance, especially in relation to employment, poverty eradication, food and nutrition security, gender equality, youth participation, and environmental sustainability in the fisheries sector. This would require tackling specific challenges in these policy areas at the national and regional levels.
35. Implement the first set of priority actions of the NEPAD Action Plan for the Development of African Fisheries and Aquaculture, with close attention to inland fisheries, coastal and marine fisheries and aquaculture at the national and regional economic community levels, taking ongoing initiatives and development priorities into account.
36. Pursue sustainable financing of fisheries governance, through appropriate taxation and fees, greater transparency of revenue management and increased reinvestment of fisheries revenue.
37. Adopt policies that optimize nutritional and economic benefits from the regional and global fisheries trade, while reducing overfishing and post-harvest catch losses to more benign levels, and rebuilding overexploited resources.
38. Align existing policy, legal and regulatory frameworks to adequately support the implementation of fisheries and aquaculture sector action plans such as the Conference of African Ministers of Fisheries and Aquaculture, the draft African Integrated Maritime Strategy 2050 and the NEPAD Action Plan for the Development of African Fisheries and Aquaculture.
39. Promote the participation of small- and medium-sized enterprises, including artisanal fishing, in the fishery and aquaculture sectors while strengthening the nexus between fisheries and

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aquaculture resource-based industrialization within the framework of the African Union Plan of Action for the Accelerated Industrial Development of Africa.

40. Develop policy monitoring and control systems in combination with legal and judicial systems that could be internally agreed to curb IUU fishing, and fast track the implementation of the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO)-AU Plan of Action on IUU as a possible first step in that direction.
41. Strengthen the transformative capacities and bargaining power of national and regional decision-making bodies by lifting impending constraints on strategic management, research and development, and financial and technical resources.
42. Promote peer learning and knowledge sharing within Africa and between Africa and South partners on efficient, sustainable and equitable fisheries and aquaculture management and governance systems.
43. Support strengthened collaboration between regional fisheries bodies and regional economic communities in regional fisheries governance, as an integral part of the African Union initiative on policy framework and mechanism for the fisheries sector.
44. Include fisheries and aquaculture in the climate change adaptation plans of African countries.
45. Insist on investments in maritime security as a key to continental retention of Africa's marine resources and safeguard from foreign infringements; move towards inclusive gender based community decision making and participatory management in the design and management of fishery resources using a human rights based approach.

On Forest Resources:

46. Implement the non-legally-binding instruments on all types of forests and the Ministerial Declaration of the High-Level segment of the Ninth Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests on the occasion of the launch of the International Year of Forests.
47. Review and, as appropriate, reform national policies and legislation; embrace new initiatives in forest management such as forest certification and put in place strong regional and continental frameworks to effectively stamp out illegal exploitation and trade of forest products to ensure sustainable forest management.
48. Strengthen human and institutional capacity in forest management and governance at different levels - community, national and regional, including the private sector and non-government organizations - in order to achieve sustainable forest management.

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49. Develop comprehensive and participatory national forest plans with multi stakeholder involvement, and formulate forest level management plans and ensure their implementation.
50. Establish and apply in a transparent manner, Criteria and Indicators (C&I) for Sustainable Forest Management and ensuring that all types of forests are sustainably managed irrespective of tenure and ownership. In this connection, efforts should also be redoubled in reforestation, restoration, and afforestation in order to halt and reverse forest degradation and overcome deforestation.
51. Promote intra-African trade in wood and other forest products as part of an overall strategy of regional development.
52. Create an enabling environment to encourage private sector investment in forest plantation and tree planting and processing in order to reduce pressures for the over-exploitation of natural forests, increase revenue flows, and achieve value addition of forest products.
53. Transform the forest sector industry from its present role as a producer of round woods and other basic processed products into one characterized by a diversified range of valued added products that encompass secondary and tertiary processing, and increase the contribution of the forest sector to the socio-economic transformation of African economies.
54. Review and, as necessary, reformulate existing forest policies to reflect cross sector- linkages and harmonize policies for the holistic and management of forest resources in light of emerging competing users of forest land.
55. Develop policy and legal frameworks to embrace and harness opportunities offered by such new initiatives as REDD+ and the increasing world-wide quest for green growth, and enable countries, communities, and other stakeholders to tap available finances for sustainable forest management and human livelihoods.
56. Consider sustainable forest management in Regional Economic Communities development programmes, strengthen collaboration and cooperation between countries in forest management especially in education, research and information exchange, fighting illicit timber and non-timber forest product trade and negotiating with one voice on matters of global concern.
57. Promote the use of affordable and clean alternative sources of energy.
58. Reinvest a significant proportion of revenues derived from such sources as forest fees into the crucial task of conservation and renewal.



On the Challenges for Realization of Frameworks and Principles:

59. Emphasize on the need for African leadership and citizens to recognize that regional integration, shared values and shared sovereignty is paramount to its ability to deliver structural transformation successfully, with clear measures to implement this structural transformation, and also emphasize on the importance of better integrating existing frameworks in order to make them more coherent and part of a complimentary and integrated agenda of transformation.
60. Recognize that the centrality of capable developmental states and economies to the ability to better drive and govern development has to be given prime importance in the making of an integrated continental agenda and realize the need to invest in Africa's intensive knowledge system (e.g. geological knowledge) including investments in inclusive education as a first step towards getting a better grip on financing of development and growth, and explore the use of incentives and compliance measures as a "carrot and sticks" ripple effect to support the move to Agenda 2063.
61. Commit to entrenching democratic and developmental governance principles along the mineral value chain, including strengthening the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) with a view to strategically repositioning it to become the primary instrument for promoting a shared understanding of mineral value creation, eliminating mineral resource-driven conflicts, institutionalizing mandatory mineral revenue disclosure, and improving overall mineral sector governance in Africa.
62. Endeavor to increase Africa's limited policy space in the international arena and lack of voice globally in order to take Agenda 2063 forward.

On the Experience of communities and CSO's in Managing Natural Resource Endowment:

63. Recognize that in order for communities to benefit from natural resource endowment, transformation in legislation and policy pertaining to land, rights, ownership and equitable distribution of wealth must occur. Such transformation should lean towards greater negotiating power, greater ownership and rights over land, direct revenue entitlements to shares for investments made on land and the right to consent. This also includes legislative structures that promote avenues for community awareness and automatic information exchange on the social and environmental impacts, payment of taxes and related revenue information and compensation rights.
64. Recognize the capital contribution of CSOs in establishing a sound management of the African natural resource endowment, as they are a driver of change.

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65. Strive to change the narrative and understanding that the state is responsible for the commons, and address issues of acquisition of the commons and internalization of costs by the private sector, incentive regimes more favorable to mining companies, increase capacity of civil society in negotiations, reduce power gap between civil society and government and ensure better participation of civil society in the vision for Agenda 2063.